

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed H.R. 1375, Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet on Monday, March 22, 2004, at 12 noon.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 3993–4008; 1 private bill, H.R. 4009; and; 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 390–392, and H. Res. 571 were introduced.

Pages H1321–22

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H1322–23

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 522, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there is a critical need to increase awareness and education about heart disease and the risk factors of heart disease among women (H. Rept. 108–440).

Page H1321

Chaplain: The prayer was offered today by Rabbi Elie Spitz, Congregation B'nai Israel in Tustin, California.

Page H1231

Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act: The House passed H.R. 1375, to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions, by a yea-and-nay vote of 392 yeas to 25 nays, Roll No. 69.

Pages H1234–41, H1241–74

The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committees on Financial Services and the Judiciary now printed in the bill was considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment.

Pages H1251–62

Agreed to:

Oxley amendment that limits de novo branching for ILCs to those whose business is more than 85% financial in nature and, in the case of ILCs whose

business is less than 85% in nature, limits branching to those ILCs who had Federal deposit insurance before October 1, 2003; strikes certain sections of the bill; makes technical corrections;

Pages H1262–64

Waters amendment that strikes a section of the bill that reduces the minimum waiting period from 15 calendar days to five calendar days for banks and bank holding companies to merge with or acquire other bank or bank holding companies after the Department of Justice has approved a bank merger;

Page H1264

Bachus amendment that strikes the section of the bill relating to the liability standards applied to third-party independent contractors working for a bank; and

Pages H1264–65

Kelly/Toomey amendment that adds a new title at the end of the bill which removes the prohibition on banks from paying interest on business checking accounts and would allow the Federal Reserve to pay interest on so-called “sterile” reserves (agreed to by a recorded vote of 418 ayes with none voting “no”, Roll No. 68).

Pages H1268–71, H1272–73

Rejected:

Weiner amendment that prohibits commercial banks for charging a fee to the depositor of a check that is returned for insufficient funds (rejected by a recorded vote of 167 ayes to 255 noes, Roll No. 66); and

Pages H1265–67, H1271

Jackson-Lee amendment that expresses the sense of Congress that in situations where a requesting agency obtains expedited action to approve a merger

transaction application between multiple depository institutions, that careful consideration is placed on the impact that the transaction will have on affected communities and customers of any or all of the applicant institutions (rejected by a recorded vote of 194 yeas to 225 noes, Roll No. 67).

Pages H1267–68, H1272

The Clerk was authorized to make technical and conforming changes to the bill.

Page H1274

H. Res. 566, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a voice vote.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Counter-Terrorism and Narco-Terrorism Rewards Program Act: Debated on March 17, H.R. 3782, amended, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to increase the maximum amount of an award available under the Department of State rewards program, to expand the eligibility criteria to receive an award, to authorize nonmonetary awards, to publicize the existence of the rewards program, by a 2/3 yeas-and nay-vote of 414 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 70; and

Page H1274

Recognizing more than five decades of strategic partnership between the U.S. and the people of the Marshall Islands: Debated on March 17, H. Con. Res. 364, to recognize more than 5 decades of strategic partnership between the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands in the pursuit of international peace and security, by a 2/3 yeas-and nay vote of 408 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 71.

Pages H1275–76

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for the 108th Congress—Appointments: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following members to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for the 108th Congress: Representatives Doolittle, Sam Johnson (TX), Lincoln Diaz-Balart (FL), English, Shadegg, Brady (TX), Simpson, Terry, Kirk, and Rehberg.

Page H1277

Later, the Chair read a letter from the Minority Leader, wherein she appointed the following members to be available for service on an investigative subcommittee of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct: Representatives Becerra, Cooper, Delahunt, McCarthy (NY), McIntyre, McNulty, Schiff, Scott (VA), Stupak, and Tauscher.

Page H1277

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, March 22, and further that when it adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23 for Morning Hour debate.

Page H1276

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, March 24.

Page H1276

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings today. There were no quorum calls.

Pages H1271, H1272, H1272–73, H1273–74, H1274, H1275

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Agency and Related Agencies held a hearing on Food Safety and Inspection Service. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Elsa A. Murano, Under Secretary, Food Safety; Barbara J. Masters, Acting Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service; and Stephen J. Dewhurst, Budget Officer.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, JUDICIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Patent and Trademark Office. Testimony was heard from Jon Dudas, Director, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Justice: Deborah J. Daniels, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs; and Carl R. Peed, Director, Community Oriented Policing Services.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs held a hearing on International HIV/AIDS Assistance Request. Testimony was heard from Ambassador Randall Tobias, Global AIDS Coordinator.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Office of Domestic Preparedness. Testimony was heard from Suzanne Mencer, Director, Office for Domestic Preparedness, Department of Homeland Security.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior held a hearing on Oversight: Presidio Trust. Testimony was heard from Craig Middleton, Executive Director, Presidio Trust, and a public witness.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Department of Education. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Education: Gene Hickok, Acting Deputy Secretary; and Ray Simon, Assistant Secretary, Elementary and Secondary Education.

DEPARTMENT—REDESIGNATION

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on H.R. 1741, To redesignate the position of the Secretary of the Navy as the Secretary of the Navy and the Marine Corps. Testimony was heard from William S. Dudley, Director, Naval History, Naval Historical Center, Department of the Navy; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—TRAINING TRANSFORMATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities held a joint hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—Training Transformation—Examination of the Joint National Training Capability. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Paul W. Mayberry, Deputy Under Secretary (Readiness); MG Gordon Nash, USMC, Commander, Joint Warfighting Center, and Director, Joint Training, U.S. Joint Command, RADM David T. Hart, Jr., USN, Director, Fleet Readiness Division, and Michael P. Bailey, Technical Director, Technology Division, Training and Education Command, U.S. Marine Corps, all with the Department of the Navy; BG Louis W. Weber, USA, Director of Training, Training Directorate (DAMO-TR), Department of the Army; and BG Norman R. Seip, USAF, Deputy Director, Operations and Training, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air and Space, Department of the Air Force.

DOE'S ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES BUDGET

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing on the Department of Energy's Atomic Energy Defense Activities Budget. Testimony was heard from. The following officials of the Department of Energy: Ambassador Linton

Brooks, Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; and Jessie Hill Roberson, Assistant Secretary, Environmental Management.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Total Force held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization Budget Request on Defense Health Programs—Current and Future Issues. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: William Winkenwerder, Jr., M.D., Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs; Lt. James B. Peake, M.D., USA, Surgeon General of the Army; VAdm. Michael L. Cowan, M.D., USN, Surgeon General of the Navy; and Lt. George P. Taylor, Jr., M.D., USMC, Surgeon General of the Air Force; and public witnesses.

DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS—REFORM AND STRENGTHEN

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations held a hearing entitled "Reforming and Strengthening Defined Benefit Plans: Examining the Health of the Multiemployer Pension System." Testimony was heard from Barbara Bovbjerg, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection held a hearing entitled "Reauthorization of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration." Testimony was heard from Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D., Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TRANSFERS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Inter-governmental Transfers: Violations of the Federal-State Medicaid Partnership or Legitimate State Budget Tool?" Testimony was heard from George Reeb, Assistant Inspector General, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Audits, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services; Kathryn G. Allen, Director, Health Care—Medicaid and Private Health Insurance Issues, GAO; and a public witness.

SUCCESSFUL HOMEOWNERSHIP AND RENTING THROUGH HOUSING COUNSELING

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing entitled "Successful Homeownership and Renting through Housing Counseling." Testimony was heard from John Weicher, Assistant Secretary, Housing/Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development; and public witnesses.

THE HUNT FOR SADDAM'S MONEY

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "The Hunt for Saddam's Money: U.S. and Foreign Efforts to Recover Iraq's Stolen Money." Testimony was heard from Juan Zarate, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Executive Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes, Department of the Treasury; Paul E. Simons, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Energy, Sanctions and Commodities, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State; and the following officials of the GAO: Joseph A. Christoff, Director, International Affairs and Trade; and Davi M. D'Agostino, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE; INTERNET PHARMACY CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT; COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Committee on Government Reform: Ordered reported H.R. 3917, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 695 Marconi Boulevard in Copiague, New York, as the "Maxine S. Postal United States Post Office."

The Committee held a hearing entitled "A Prescription for Safety: The Need for H.R. 3880, Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act." Testimony was heard from William Hubbard, Associate Commissioner, Policy and Planning, FDA, USDA; and public witnesses.

The Committee also approved pending Committee business.

U.S. RUSSIA RELATIONS—PUTIN'S SECOND TERM

Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing on U.S.—Russia Relations in Putin's Second Term. Testimony was heard from A. Elizabeth Jones, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—US VISIT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims, oversight hearing on US VISIT: A Down Payment on Homeland

Security. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Homeland Security: Robert M. Jacksta, Executive Director, Border Security and Facilitation, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Robert A. Mocny, Deputy Director, US VISIT Office; and Alfonso Martinez-Fonts, Jr., Special Assistant to the Secretary for Private Sector; and Randolph C. Hite, Director, Information Technology Architecture and Systems Issues, GAO.

ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing on H.R. 3883, To reauthorize the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act. Testimony was heard from John H. Dunnigan, Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce; W. P. Jensen, Deputy Secretary, Department of Natural Resources, State of Maryland; and public witnesses.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEES FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHING

Committee on Science: Held a hearing on The Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching: A Lesson Plan for Success. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SPACE TRANSPORTATION—NASA AND DOD COOPERATION

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing on NASA-Department of Defense Cooperation in Space Transportation. Testimony was heard from Craig Steidle, Associate Administrator, Office of Exploration Systems, NASA; the following officials of the Department of Defense: Robert Dickman, Deputy for Military Space, Office of the Under Secretary of the Air Force; and Ron Sega, Director, Defense Research and Engineering and Chief Technical Adviser to the Secretary; and a public witness.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment and Government Programs held a hearing entitled "The Benefits of Health Savings Accounts." Testimony was heard from Representative Crane; and public witnesses.

BUDGET REQUESTS—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management held a hearing on

the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, the Office of Domestic Preparedness, and First Responder Funding. Testimony was heard from Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security.

HEALTH QUALITY INITIATIVES

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on Health Quality Initiatives. Testimony was heard from Carolyn Clancy, M.D., Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Department of Health and Human Services; Glenn M. Hackbarth, Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; and public witnesses.

SSA'S MANAGEMENT—TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing on the SSA's Management of the Ticket to Work Program. Testimony was heard from Martin H. Gerry, Deputy Commissioner, Disability and Income Security Programs, SSA; Troy R. Justesen, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, Department of Education; and public witnesses.

FASTER AND SMARTER FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

Select Committee on Homeland Security: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 3266, Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2003.

Joint Meetings

VETERANS PROGRAMS

Joint Hearings: Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and the House Committee on Veterans Affairs concluded joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of the Air Force Sergeants Association, Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, and Fleet Reserve Association, after receiving testimony from CMSgt. Jim Lekovic, USAF (Ret.), Air Force Sergeants Association, Suitland, Maryland; Msgt. David L. Washington, USAF (Ret.), Retired Enlisted Association, Aurora, Colorado; Rachel Clinkscale, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., Arlington, Virginia; and Joseph L. Barnes, Fleet Reserve Association, Alexandria, Virginia.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see, DAILY DIGEST, p. D177)

H.R. 3915, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act

and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through April 2, 2004. Signed on March 15, 2004. (Public Law 108–205)

S. 714, to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of Bureau of Land Management land in Douglas County, Oregon, to the county to improve management of and recreational access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. Signed on March 15, 2004. (Public Law 108–206)

COMMITTEE MEETING FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2004

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No committee meetings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 22 through March 27, 2004

Senate Chamber

On *Monday*, at 2 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of S. 1637, Jumpstart Our Business Strength (JOBS) Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any other cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: March 23, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Energy's Office of National Nuclear Security Administration, 10 a.m., SD–192.

March 23, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Transportation Security Administration and the United States Coast Guard, both of the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–124.

March 23, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary, to hold hearings to examine the transformation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, focusing on information technology, management and training, 10:30 a.m., SD–116.

March 24, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Reclamation's Animas-La Plata Project, 10 a.m., SD–124.

March 24, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of the Air Force, 10 a.m., SD–192.

March 25, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 9:30 a.m., SD-192.

March 25, Subcommittee on Interior, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD-124.

Committee on Armed Services: March 23, to hold hearings to examine atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy relating to the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2005, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

March 23, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2005, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Armed Services: March 23, to hold hearings to examine atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy relating to the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2005, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

March 23, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2005, focusing on Department of Defense financial management, 2:30 p.m., SR-232A.

March 24, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2005, focusing on strategic forces and capabilities, 9:30 a.m., SR-222.

March 24, Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine Navy and Air Force aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2005 and future years defense program, 2 p.m., SR-232A.

March 25, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the role of the U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Special Operations Command in defending the homeland and in the global war on terrorism, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005; to be followed by a closed session in SH-219, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

March 25, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine national security space programs and management in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2005, 2:30 p.m., SR-232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: March 23, to resume hearings to examine current investigations and regulatory actions regarding the mutual fund industry, focusing on fund operations and governance, 10 a.m., SD-538.

March 24, Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation, to hold hearings to examine the real estate appraisal industry, focusing on related issues involving financial markets and community investments, risk management, and consumer protection, 2:30 p.m., SD-538.

March 25, Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold an oversight hearing to examine national flood insurance repetitive losses, 10 a.m., SD-538.

March 25, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2005 for the Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, 2 p.m., SD-538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: March 24, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 11:30 a.m., SD-366.

March 24, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, to hold hearings to examine S. 433, to provide for enhanced collaborative forest stewardship management within the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests in Idaho, S. 2180, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange certain lands in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado, and H.R. 1964, to assist the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania in conserving priority lands and natural resources in the Highlands region, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

March 25, Subcommittee on Water and Power, to hold hearings to examine S. 1085, to provide for a Bureau of Reclamation program to assist states and local communities in evaluating and developing rural and small community water supply systems, and S. 1732, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a rural water supply program in the Reclamation States to provide a clean, safe, affordable, and reliable water supply to rural residents, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 23, to hold oversight hearings to examine the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 2 p.m., SD-406.

March 24, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the environmental impacts on the United States natural gas supply, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 23, to hold hearings to examine the current status of United States and Mexico relations, focusing on immigration policy and the bilateral relationship, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

March 24, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine intellectual property piracy issues, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

March 25, Full Committee, to hold hearing to examine proposed legislation to amend the African Growth and Opportunity Act to expand certain trade benefits to eligible sub-Saharan African countries, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Governmental Affairs: March 23, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Government Reform to examine U.S. Postal Service reform issues, 2:30 p.m., 2154 RHOB.

March 24, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine problems facing the credit counseling industry, focusing on cases of misconduct among credit card counseling agencies and their for-profit service providers and what solutions may be available to repair the industry, 9 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: March 25, Subcommittee on Employment, Safety, and Training, to hold hearings to examine hazard communication in the workplace, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Indian Affairs: March 24, to hold hearings to examine S. 1529, to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to include provisions relating to the payment and administration of gaming fees, 9:30 a.m., SR-485.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 23, to hold hearings to examine a proposed constitutional amendment to preserve traditional marriage, 10 a.m., SD-226.

March 23, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the challenges and solutions involving the counterfeiting and theft of tangible intellectual property, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

March 24, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul S. Diamond, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: March 25, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Military Officers Association of America, 10 a.m., 345 CHOB.

Special Committee on Aging: March 22, to hold hearing to examine certain criminal situations involving seniors with dementia, focusing on a recent tragedy in Ocala, Florida, involving the death of a senior citizen suffering from dementia and the killing of a local police officer, 2 p.m., SD-628.

March 23, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the impact of Internet fraud on seniors, focusing on congressional efforts to ensure that federal and state enforcement agencies take the proper steps to protect seniors and prosecute cybercriminals, 10 a.m., SD-628.

House Chamber

Program to be announced.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, March 23, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, on Education Programs, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies, on Legal Activities; DEA; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, 10 a.m., and on U.S. Marshals Service and Federal Prison System, 2 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

March 24, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, on Nuclear Waste Disposal and Environmental Management, 10 a.m., 2362B Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on Emergency Preparedness and Response, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, on Health Resources and Services Administration, 10:15 a.m., on Administration for Children and Families, 11:20 a.m., and on Secretary of Education, 1 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies, on OMB, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, on Chemical Safety Hazard Investigation Board, 10 a.m., and on Corporation for National and Community Service, 11 a.m., H-143 Capitol.

March 25, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related

Agencies, on Rural Development, 9:30 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies, on SBA, 10 a.m., and on U.S. Trade Representative, 2 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

March 25, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, executive, on National Nuclear Security Administration, 10 a.m., 2362B Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, 10 a.m., and on United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on Interior, on Smithsonian, 10 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, on Child Development Research and Programs, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on Military Construction, on European Command, 9:30 a.m., B-300 Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies, on Highway Safety Programs, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, to continue appropriation hearings, 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., H-143 Capitol.

March 26, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Independent Agencies, on EEOC, 2 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, March 24, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request from the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing on the Pre-positioned Equipment Programs of the United States Army and United States Marine Corps, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on Total Force, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—Military Personnel Policy, Benefits and Compensation Overview, 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing on the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Process, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—Missile Defense Programs, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—Department of the Navy and Department of the Air Force Tactical Weapon Acquisition Programs, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—Department of Defense Science and Technology Policy and Programs, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, March 24, hearing on "The State of U.S. Industry," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "NIH: Re-engineering Clinical Research," 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, March 24, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing on H.R. 3755, Zero Down Payment Act of 2004, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

March 25, full Committee, hearing on the state of the international financial system, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, March 23, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, hearing entitled "Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives: Progress and Promise," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization, oversight hearing entitled "Oversight of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program," 2 p.m., 2203 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, hearing entitled "DoD Counternarcotics: What Is Congress Getting For Its Money?" 10 a.m., 2203 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs and the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, joint hearing entitled "The Homeland Security Department's Plan to Consolidate and Co-locate Regional and Field Offices: Improving Communication and Coordination," 1 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness, hearing entitled "10 Years after the Implementation of DSHEA: The Status of Dietary Supplements in the United States," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census, oversight hearing entitled "Electronic Government: A Progress Report on the Successes and Challenges of Government-wide Information Technology Solutions," 2:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 25, full Committee, hearing entitled "Maintaining a Level Playing Field for D.C. Graduates: Legislation to Reauthorize the D.C. College Access Act," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations, March 24, hearing on Safety and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers, 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia, hearing on Saudi Arabia and the Fight Against Terrorism Financing, 1:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, March 24, Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, oversight hearing entitled "How Would Millions of Guest Workers Impact Working Americans and Americans Seeking Employment?" 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

March 25, Subcommittee on the Constitution hearing on H. Res. 568, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Judicial determinations regarding the meaning of the laws of the United States should not be based on judgments, laws, or pronouncements of foreign institutions unless such foreign judgments, laws, or

pronouncements inform an understanding of the original meaning of the laws of the United States, and the Appropriate Role of Foreign Judgments in the Interpretation of American Law, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, March 24, Subcommittee on Water and Power, oversight hearing on the Bureau of Reclamation's Facility Title Transfers: Lessons Learned and Future Opportunities; followed by a hearing on H.R. 3747, Wallowa Lake Dam Rehabilitation and Water Management Act of 2004, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 25, Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, hearing on H.R. 3378, Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2003, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 25, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1517, Land Reinvestment Act; H.R. 2663, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Castle Nugent Farms located on St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as a unit of the National Park System; and H.R. 3874, To convey for public purposes certain Federal lands in Riverside County, California, that have been identified for disposal, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, March 23, Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, to continue hearings to assess the effectiveness of the current budget process and consider new reform and enforcement proposals—Part II, 11 a.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, March 24, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing on the Priorities in the Department of Energy Budget for Fiscal Year 2005, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

March 24, Subcommittee on Research and the Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards, joint hearing on H.R. 3980, National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 25, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation and the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, joint hearing on Ballast Water Management: New International Standards and National Invasive Species Act Reauthorization, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, March 24, hearing entitled "Employing Veterans of Our Armed Forces," 11 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, March 24, hearing on Board of Trustees 2004 Annual Reports, 1 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, March 23, Subcommittee on Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence, executive, hearing on CIA Compensation Reform, 4 p.m., H-405 Capitol.

March 24, full Committee, executive, hearing on Central Intelligence Agency Program Budget, 2 p.m., H-405 Capitol.

March 25, executive, hearing on Joint Military Intelligence Program and Tactical Intelligence and Related Activities, 10 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

March 25, Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy and National Security, executive, briefing on Global Intelligence Updated, 9 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

March 26, full Committee, executive, hearing on General Defense Intelligence Program, 9 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

Select Committee on Homeland Security, March 24, Subcommittee on Rules, hearing entitled "Homeland Security Jurisdiction: The Perspective of Committee Leaders," 12:30 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Joint Meetings: March 23, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, to hold joint hearings with the House

Committee on Government Reform to examine U.S. Postal Service reform issues, 2:30 p.m., 2154 RHOB.

Joint Meetings: March 25, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Military Officers Association of America, 10 a.m., 345 CHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Monday, March 22

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Monday, March 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 2 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of S. 1637, Jumpstart Our Business Strength (JOBS) Act.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: The House will meet in pro forma session.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bereuter, Doug, Nebr., E409
 Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E406
 Brown, Corrine, Fla., E403, E404
 Cardoza, Dennis A., Calif., E404, E405
 Cramer, Robert E. (Bud), Jr., Ala., E413
 Crenshaw, Ander, Fla., E406
 Davis, Tom, Va., E410
 Farr, Sam, Calif., E408
 Gerlach, Jim, Pa., E413
 Hastert, J. Dennis, Ill., E403
 Kennedy, Mark R., Minn., E403, E404, E405

Kind, Ron, Wisc., E411
 Kolbe, Jim, Ariz., E407
 Lantos, Tom, Calif., E414
 Larson, John B., Conn., E412
 Levin, Sander M., Mich., E409
 Lewis, Jerry, Calif., E409
 Maloney, Carolyn B., N.Y., E410
 Menendez, Robert, N.J., E411
 Moore, Dennis, Kansas, E411
 Ney, Robert W., Ohio, E403, E404, E405
 Oberstar, James L., Minn., E407
 Owens, Major R., N.Y., E413
 Pelosi, Nancy, Calif., E410

Petri, Thomas E., Wisc., E410
 Price, David E., N.C., E408
 Ross, Mike, Ark., E409
 Rothman, Steven R., N.J., E406
 Shays, Christopher, Conn., E412
 Sherwood, Don, Pa., E407
 Souder, Mark E., Ind., E408
 Stark, Fortney Pete, Calif., E404, E405
 Stupak, Bart, Mich., E412
 Thompson, Mike, Calif., E407
 Weller, Jerry, Ill., E407



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